

# The Road to Emmaus: He Walks With You

An Easter Reflection by Rhonda Abrams/CCA Bereavement Coordinator

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*“Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles<sup>[a]</sup> from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ... ”*  
(Luke 24:13-15)

Those of us who are grieving should be able to relate very well to these two heart-broken disciples traveling from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They, along with fellow believers in Jerusalem, just witnessed the most horrific end-of-life event of the One whom they'd hoped to be the one to redeem Israel. Image their lamentations as they walked and recalled every moment of the last week, leading up to the crucifixion and death of Jesus. They walked with faces downcast, in-shock, confused, angry, dreams shattered ... a lot of the emotions you are likely to feel every day in your very own grief journeys. But then... He appears, walking alongside them, unassuming in manner as if any ordinary person walking beside them. Why was His glorified nature not yet revealed to them? After all, that's what they wanted; That's what why they were so disturbed. Just my opinion, but I wonder if God first wanted to help them build their faith in Him before revealing His Resurrection, before giving them the answers they sought. Are we any less in need of faith building in our grief? Do we notice the small and unassuming ways that God/Jesus walks beside each of us every day?

One other thing to notice. How did Jesus reveal himself to them? First, He quietly walked beside them, walking the same journeyed rough road (like your pain-filled grief journey). Then, He began to converse with them, not in a preachy reprimanding way, but with gentle inquiring questions, peeling back the layers of their brokenness to reveal the heart of their grief: Jesus wasn't who they thought Him to be (although He was more). He didn't come back to save them

(so they thought). Then Jesus gently opened the Scriptures to them to correct their understanding of who He is. With softened hearts, the two travelers invited Jesus to come and stay the evening with them, still unaware of who He was. But at supper, in the breaking of the bread, Jesus revealed Himself fully to them and their spiritual eyes were opened. They understood, at last! Finding Jesus no longer in their midst, they immediately returned to Jerusalem to tell to the other disciples. Like these two travelers, we too as grievers have many unanswered questions and many layers of brokenness that need ministering to. Do we open ourselves to Jesus' still small voice of consolation? Do we trust that He is always there, even when we don't feel Him or even if we have lost our faith in Him. He is still there, patiently and compassionately sending us little signs of hope and healing along our grief journey. The Easter season of Resurrection is a good opportunity to read and ponder the scriptures. God's Word is living and is able to speak to each of our unique situations personally. How wonderful is that! God waits patiently for us to come to Him to be healed. Don't let another day pass without seeking Him in His Word. There are miracles and blessings awaiting even the most broken of hearts. Come to His table and sit and break bread with the author and perfecter of our faith.

*“Let us fix **our** eyes on Jesus, **the author and perfecter of our faith**, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”*  
(Hebrews 12:2)

Let your eyes be opened and your hearts burn with love as you sit and listen to His healing voice.

This Easter season we can gratefully reflect on **the grace** that brought us through the grief of the pandemic in 2020, and its wake that still impacts us today: The grief we experienced from global illness and death, isolation, restricted gatherings, limited resources, loss of businesses and employment, and the loss of safety caused by a pandemic virus. Our “new normal” is exponentially changed. Many have had to adjust to new paths in life in the absence of loved ones and modified lifestyles. But in this there is opportunity as well. With the “things” of this world stripped away, we are all the more drawn to the throne of Grace and Mercy where God still reigns. **Jesus even today, comes to walk unassumingly beside you** to bring peace in the midst of this storm. Continue talking and walking with Him daily and with Him as the foundation of your faith, find yourselves “clothed with power from on high”. (Luke 24:49)

**“Were not our hearts burning within us...”** (Luke 24:32)

